



Bow Open Spaces, Inc.

Newsletter

Spring, 2013

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Bow Open Spaces, Inc. was established in 1997 to protect property that has been donated to or purchased by the Town of Bow for conservation and recreation purposes for the benefit of the citizens of Bow and its neighboring communities.

Quick Links

[Bob Lux, President](#)
[Martin Murray, Editor](#)

Bowopenspaces.com

Next BOS Meeting

Board meetings are typically held in the Old Town Hall.

All members welcome!

The next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7.

Daniel Webster Boy Scout Council Jamboree!

Approximately 100 boy scouts from Daniel Webster Council participated during the weekend of May 3 - 5 in the "Plan B Spring Camporee." Troop 75 from Bow partnered with a Concord troop to host the event.

The scouts competed in five activities: "How to splint broken bones," "Frisbee golf," "Bucket brigade sand relay race," "Knot tying race," and "Bridge building contest."

The participants camped in the low field near the Bow Sand Pits off of Allen road. The boys had loads of fun playing in the sand pits. Bob Lux reported after their departure on Sunday that the scouts showed great respect for the land and left no evidence of their campout.

Trail Care - What's on the Horizon

Many thanks to the numerous anonymous volunteers who pick up sticks and litter, clear downed trees, etc. Your efforts make our work easier!

National Trails Day is Saturday, June 1st. Bob Dawkins and Hilary Warner will be organizing a trail work project for that day (8 AM-noon or later)- but any donation of time will be much appreciated! Details are yet to be determined. Volunteers make trails happen! If you'd like to lend a hand please contact [Hilary Warner](#).

There are 3 exciting trail projects planned for this season (one of these will likely be the focus of Trails Day):

- Walker Forest- continue work on the new trail that connects Van Ger Drive to Branch Londonderry Turnpike. This project includes creating a spur that will allow residents of Hampshire Hills Drive to access the Forest.
- Knox Road Town Forest- create a new single track trail off of Robinson Road in the vicinity of Alexander and Whittier Roads. This trail has been scouted and flagged but still needs to be cut and marked.
- Nottingcook Forest- re establish access to the Forest from the end of Hope Lane. This will give residents in the Hope Lane/ Morgan Estates area easy access to the trails in this area.



Dry Bog

This is how the Nottingcook bog appears today: stumps & mud, virtually no water anywhere. Maybe a month ago, it was noted that the beaver dam had been damaged by a fallen tree. There are two lodges in the bog but no beaver activity. One would have expected the dam to be repaired and the water level maintained.

Do beavers repair dams when damaged or move on, abandoning the area?

They made a water-centered ecosystem.

Did someone interfere? There is a dead beaver about a half mile away. It seemed an unlikely place to find a dead beaver. What happened to the beavers?

Any ideas, please email bowopenspaces@gmail.com

"The Lost Acre"

This small conservation easement disappeared under a pile of paper after 2002, only to reappear a few months ago; hence the name. It is a lovely parcel, a bit of Shangri La, with unlikely neighbors: Route 3A, Bow Auto Parts, Bow Sand and Gravel and the under-construction NH state liquor store warehouse. The focus is Bow Bog Brook rushing through the center. It's a bit hard to access but best parking would be by Bow AP should

you chose to take a look. A picnic table and small parking area would make for good utilization. It's a pretty place; but, is it pretty if no one ever appreciates it?

Two views of Bow Bog Brook:

Route 3A embankment is in the background in the first

First

Second

Thanks for the Help!

A Father-Son team recently took on a challenging task: cleaning up a field in Nottingcook Forest that had become an unfortunate dumping ground of careless visitors.

It is so gratifying to be reminded, on occasion, of the overwhelming good that exists in our community. Many thanks to our friends, who choose to remain anonymous. We are very grateful!



Cleanup - Before



Cleanup - After

President's Message

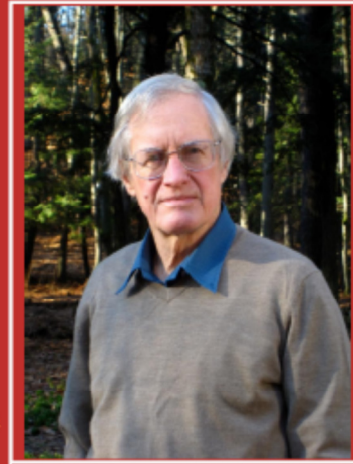
The Year's at the Spring!

by Bob Lux

Spring always comes in starts and halts. Winter, by mid-April a wizened old man, exits with or without a whimper. His discarded and dirty white mantle lies on the ground for seemingly too long. But we forget him as fast as he forgets himself.

Again, we have personal renaissance and see spring mirrored in red wing black birds singing in cattails, peepers croaking, little forest creatures springing from virtually nowhere - a tiny porcupine, a snake or turtle, a fawn, young birds trying first flight - and legions of tadpoles, water spiders, blackflies and mosquitoes, too - the natural world waking up.

I've been to Nottingcook a number of times in April setting up a semi-permanent orienteering course. The trails were mostly leaf-covered. Occasionally, I had to pause to search for a trail blaze as the trail



itself was not to be seen under the leafy carpet. Please go to the web site and adopt a trail or a segment for year round maintenance. Do what you can to make our trails look cared for and inviting - so indeed they are.

On one of those visits, I encountered a black bear. It started with my two old dogs sniffing and acting a good bit younger. A black shape hurled to the ground from a nearby tree, then took off with dogs in chase. I thought maybe I'd see a treed (and upset bear) but from the forest came no sounds of excitement, no sounds at all. Maybe a minute later, the bear ran back toward me, briefly hiding behind a tree (all the while peering at me) not 25 yards away - then raced away. After some whistling on my part, the dogs reappeared from a new direction. Hard to know what occurred. I seldom see bears in the woods in Bow - only at the backyard feeder in the past.

Another thought for all of us: try to get in the habit of adding a plastic bag to your "walking kit" & pick up the stray cans and other small litter you encounter on any Bow trail you happen to be walking.

We are looking for contributors to this news letter. If you received it, you are a potential contributor. Please send us any pertinent trail news you may have!

Give the permanent O course a try. It will be available the first week in May. Find it on the Bow Open Spaces website.

They're our woods and trails. See you out there!

Adopt-a-Trail!

Bow Open Spaces has established an adopt-a-trail scheme (still in rudimentary form) for trail maintenance in Nottingcook Forest. In the near future, we would like to incorporate this in all the Bow Open Spaces forests. Check [our website](#) to learn more, and, if you have an interest, contact [Bob Lux](#).

BOS & BHS - a great partnership!

Bow Open Spaces is always willing to work with a member of the Bow High School senior class to complete a requisite senior seminar. Please [contact us](#) if you know a student who would like to explore the possibilities!

Support Bow Open Spaces, Inc.!

BOS members help support the important work of the organization. Dues funds go toward continued protection of existing and future properties. If you are not already a member, but would like to join us, please [send an email](#) to Bow Open Spaces Membership Director Bob Dawkins and receive membership information via US Mail.

If you're ready to join right now please send a check with the appropriate contact information, as described below:

Dues: Individual = \$20.00/year; Family = \$30.00/year. Payable to "Bow Open Spaces, Inc." Send to: Bob Dawkins, 41 South Bow Road, Bow NH 03304.

Please include your name, address, phone number and email address. Thank you!

Contact Info: bowopenspaces.com

Bow Open Spaces, Inc.
c/o Bob Dawkins, Membership Director
41 South Bow Road